

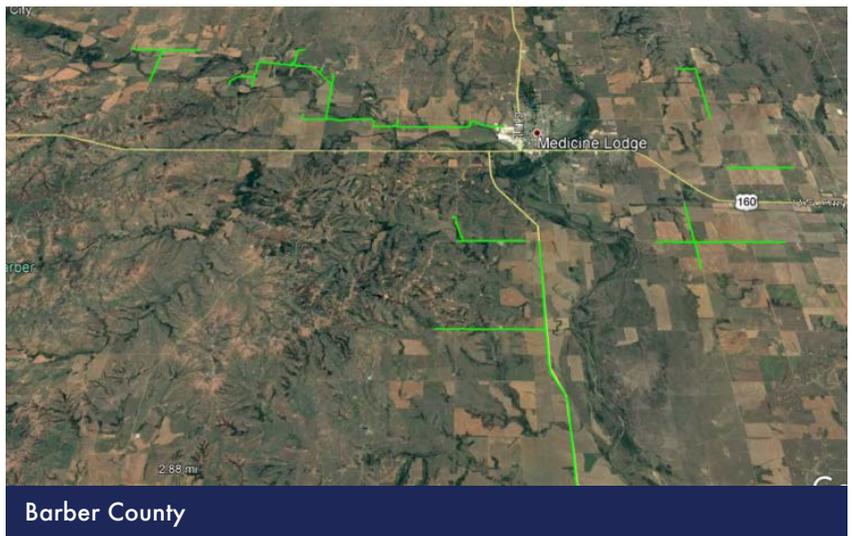
Total Project Investment:
\$1,282,600

Award Amount:
\$641,300

In Partnership With:
sctelcom

ABOUT THE NEED

SCTelcom will be digging through rock and deep canyons to bring fiber connectivity to areas outside Medicine Lodge, Kansas. This rural area is not only 100% unserved, the challenging terrain inhibits access to wireless for the 62 households, businesses, farms and ranches in the area. SCTelcom was able to achieve a 50% penetration at the rollout of every rural fiber extension constructed in the counties of Barber, Harper, and Pratt over the last 18 months and this project continues that effort to bring much needed access to unserved areas. Through SCTelcom's commitment to provide the highest quality products and services for its customers, this project will provide urgently needed broadband connectivity to enhance the socioeconomic, educational and workforce development opportunities in the area, as well as the quality of life for those who live and work in these rural areas of Barber County.



ABOUT SCTELCOM

SCTelcom, a small rural Kansas broadband company established in 1953, currently provides high-quality broadband Internet services with upload and download speeds up to 1 Gigabit per second to more than 3,000 customers, including residences, businesses, farms and critical community facilities in and near the rural KS communities of Attica, Anthony, Harper, Hazelton, Iuka, Kiowa, Lake City, Medicine Lodge, Pratt, Sharon, Sun City, and Turon. Over the past 20 years, SCTelcom has improved its broadband connectivity to existing unserved and underserved customers typically by constructing fiber to the premise for the most reliable and scalable broadband access network. Additionally, SCTelcom received four Connectivity Emergency Response Grants from the Office of Broadband Development to help better serve their community and continue providing connectivity for their rural area.

The Kansas Office of Broadband Development was established in 2020 to help ensure that all Kansans have the opportunity to live, work, learn and compete in a global economy by improving universal access to quality, affordable and reliable broadband. The Office is housed within the Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce. As the state's lead economic development agency, Commerce strives to empower individuals, businesses and communities to achieve prosperity in Kansas.